

## NEW SPECIES OF DIGITARIA AND TRICHACHNE

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Some time ago Dr. Richard A. Howard sent me two grasses from the West Indies for identification. They appeared to be common species of *Digitaria* and *Trichachne*, but on closer examination they proved to be undescribed. It is a coincidence that both species have a similar (geographical) distribution, and differ from the related species in essentially the same characters.

### *Trichachne affinis* Swallen, *sp. nov.*

Culmi graciles 60-70 cm. alti; laminae planae, laxae, usque ad 18 cm. longae, 7-9 mm. latae; racemi adscendentes, 8-10 cm. longi; spiculae 4 mm. longae, acuminatae; lemma sterile 5-nervium, glabrum, marginibus dense villosum.

Perennial; culms 60-70 cm. tall, slender, erect, or decumbent at the base, the cataphylls densely villous; innovations extravaginal, sometimes appearing like short rhizomes; sheaths mostly longer than the internodes, glabrous or very sparsely hispid; ligule a thin membrane about 2 mm. long; blades lax, flat, attenuate, as much as 18 cm. long, 7-9 mm. wide, glabrous, the margins scabrous; inflorescence 13-18 cm. long, composed of few to several erect or ascending racemes about 8-10 cm. long; spikelets in pairs, 4 mm. long, ovate, acuminate; first glume 0.5 mm. long, nerveless, obtuse; second glume narrow, 3-nerved, acuminate, as long as the fruit, glabrous between the nerves, long-villous on the margins; sterile lemma as long as the fruit, ovate, acuminate, 5-nerved, glabrous between the nerves, long-villous on the margins, the hairs extending about 1 mm. beyond the spikelet; fruit as long as the second glume and sterile lemma.

Type in the U. S. National Herbarium No. 1556826, collected along roadsides at Quinigua, Valle del Cibao, Province de Santiago, Dominican Republic, October 21, 1930 by *E. L. Ekman* ("Mus. Botan. Stockholm" No. *H-16090*).

This species is most closely related to *Trichachne insularis* (L.) Nees and *T. sacchariflora* (Raddi) Nees with which it has been confused. It is readily separated from both, however, by the ovate, strongly 5-nerved sterile lemma which is glabrous between the nerves but densely villous on the margins with pale straw-colored or usually white hairs. The plants are also more slender with relatively narrower blades,

although no clear differentiation can be made on these characters.

The type was selected as an average specimen and the description drawn up from it. Depauperate specimens occur which are only 10-20 cm. tall with blades 2 mm. wide (Redonda, *Howard 15234*), while others are as much as 15 dm. tall (Peru, *Allard 21150*). Specimens from Mexico and South America usually have larger spikelets, 5 mm. long, and a longer more pointed fruit.

West Indies and Mexico south to Bolivia and Brazil.

Representative specimens:

WEST INDIES: PORTO RICO, *Hess 428*; ST. KITTS, *Box 129*; TRINIDAD, *Freeman 7513*; REDONDA (Leeward Islands), *Howard 15234*. MEXICO: QUINTANA ROO, Tancah, *Swallen 2775*; NUEVO LEON, Monterrey, *Mueller 376*, *Harvey 1072*; SAN LUIS POTOSI; Xititla, *Sohns 1441*. GUATEMALA: Escuintla, *Hitchcock 9008*. PANAMA: Point Chamé, *Hitchcock 8156*. COLOMBIA: VAUPÉS; Río Kuduyarí, *Schultes 17867*; TOLIMA; Armero, *Cuatrecasas 10497*. VENEZUELA: Cristobal Colon, *Broadway 334*; CARABOBO, Lake Valencia, *Chase 12341*. PERU: HUANUCO; Río Azul, *Ferreira 12758*; JUNIN, Colonia Perené, *Hitchcock 22079*; SAN MARTÍN, Tingo María, *Allard 21150*. BOLIVIA: Santa Cruz, *Steinbach 5221*, *6638*; Mapiri, *Rusby 246*; Chulumani, Sur Yungas *Hitchcock 22665*. BRAZIL: RIO GRANDE DO SUL, São Leopoldo, *Dutra 566*; Pelotas, *Costa Sacco 86*; SANTA CATARINA: Itajaí, *Reitz & Klein 3365*.

***Digitaria diversiflora* Swallen, *sp. nov.***

Culmi decumbentes 15-45 cm. longi; laminae 4-5 cm. longae, 3.5-5 mm. latae, sparse papilloso-hispidae; racemi divergentes, 4-8 cm. longi; spiculae 2.7-3 mm. longae, binae, bifformes, spiculae inferioris lemma sterile glabrum, spiculae superioris lemma sterile inter nervos lateralis dense pilosum.

Annual; culms erect or decumbent spreading and rooting at the lower nodes, 15-45 cm. long; sheaths shorter than the internodes, sparsely to rather densely papillose hispid, especially toward the base and along the margins; ligule membranaceous about 1.5 mm. long; blades 4-5 cm. long, 3.5-5 mm. wide, sparsely papillose hispid near the base with long coarse hairs; inflorescence composed of 2 to several digitate spreading racemes, 4-8 cm. long, the rachis nearly 1 mm. wide, scabrous along the margins; spikelets in pairs, 2.7-3 mm. long, the lower spikelet of each pair distinct from the upper; lower spikelet oval, acute, the first glume broad, obtuse, 0.2-0.3 mm. long, the second narrow, 3-nerved, 2/3 as long as the spikelet, the sterile lemma glabrous (rarely with a few short hairs on the margin), strongly 5-nerved, the nerves equidistant; upper spikelet usually a little longer

than the lower, lanceolate, the second glume pilose between the nerves, the sterile lemma 5-nerved, the lateral nerves approximate, densely fimbriate on the margins and between the lateral nerves; fruit acuminate, pale or straw-colored.

Type in the U. S. National Herbarium No. 927914, collected in open ground along road, Black River, Jamaica, October 22, 1912, by A. S. Hitchcock (no. 9636).

The type was filed under *Digitaria sanguinalis* (L.) Scop., which does not occur in the Tropics. The species is closely related to *D. adscendens* (H.B.K.) Henr., differing, however, in the biform spikelets, the shorter obtuse first glume, and the strong equidistant nerves of the glabrous sterile lemma of the lower one of a pair of spikelets.

Florida, Texas and the West Indies to Colombia and Venezuela.

Representative collections:

FLORIDA: Key Largo, A. A. Eaton 446; Cocoanut Grove, Small & Carter 605. TEXAS: Corpus Christi, Hitchcock 5345; Sarita, Hitchcock 5440; Kingsville, Swallen 10264. MEXICO: BAJA CALIFORNIA; San Jose del Cabo, Brandegee 41; Ribera, Wiggins 5647; SONORA; Alamos, Rose et al. 12983; SINALOA; Rosario, Rose 1541; VERACRUZ; Veracruz, Hitchcock 6566; YUCATAN; Gaumer 1029. GUATEMALA: IZABAL: Quirigua, Blake 7704. PANAMA: CANAL ZONE; Gamboa, Pittier 4440; Standley 28504; Balboa Heights, Killip 4255; San Jose Island, Johnston 991. CUBA: ISLE OF PINES; Herradura 43161; PINAR DEL RIO: Los Palacios, Shafer 11794. PORTO RICO: Juana Diaz, Sargent 3210. DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: Ciudad Trujillo, Allard 13,091, 15,010; Samaná Peninsula, Abbott 499. HAITI: Port de Paix, Leonard 11,190. MONTSERRAT; Plymouth, Potter 5529. COLOMBIA: Cartagena, Hitchcock 9905; ANTI-OQUIA; Puerto Berrio, Archer 1413. VENEZUELA: FALCÓN; Caro, Tamayo 790.

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A STRANGE FORM OF *HYPERICUM CANADENSE* — The recent report of *Hypericum gentianoides* L. from Great Wass Island, Maine (Rhodora 65: 285) is in error. What looked to me like that species actually was an odd assemblage of plants of *H. canadense* L. growing on or about a granite ledge. The herbarium material of these consists of 24 plants varying from 8-13 cm in height. They are stiffish, slender